

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /090 W

-----077261 110945Z /10

R 110829Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3421

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM PINS KS

SUBJ: KOREAN CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS ISSUE STATEMENT ON CONGRESSMAN
FRASER LETTER

1. SUMMARY: THE COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN KOREA (CHRMK) AND THE KOREAN CITIZENS' UNION FOR DEMOCRACY (KCUD) HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT AGREEING WITH THE CONTENTS OF CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER CRITICIZING THE ROKG ELECTORAL SYSTEM. THE COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN KOREA HAS ADDITIONALLY WRITTEN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER REQUESTING HIS "FORTHRIGHT, PUBLIC RESPONSE" TO THE FRASER LETTER. END SUMMARY.

2. CHRMK/KCUD REPRESENTATIVE PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH A COPY OF "STATEMENT REGARDING US HOUSE MEMBERS' LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER" AND A LETTER SIGNED BY HAM SOK HON (CHAIRMAN, CHRMK) AND TIMOTHY MOON (VICE CHAIRMAN, CHRMK) TO BE FORWARDED TO PRESIDENT CARTER. THE STATEMENT MAKES THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1) THE CHRMK AND THE KCUD BELIEVE THE CRITICISMS IN FRASER'S LETTER ARE DIRECTED AT THE PAK REGIME RATHER THAN AT THE KOREAN PEOPLE; 2) THE REGIME'S USE OF THE TERM "KOREAN-STYLE DEMOCRACY" IS AN ADMISSION OF THE YUSHIN SYSTEM'S SIMILARITY TO BOTH THE SOVIET AND THE NORTH KOREAN SYSTEMS;
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3) THE PAK REGIME BY OPPRESSING THE PEOPLE LOSES ITS MORAL FOUNDATION TO CLAIM LEGITIMACY OVER THE KOREAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE STRONG DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS; 4) THE ROKG'S CLAIM THAT THE KOREAN PEOPLE ENJOY BASIC FREEDOMS IS FALSE (THERE IS ONLY ONE FREEDOM WHICH "OVERFLOWS IN KOREA: IT IS THE FREEDOM TO LICK THE BOOTS OF THE REGIME");
5) THE FACT THAT 42 CONGRESSPERSONS SIGNED THE LETTER

PROVES THE BANKRUPTCY OF THE PAK REGIME'S FOREIGN POLICY.

3. THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER SAYS THE FRASER LETTER EXPRESSES "THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE" AND ASKS PRESIDENT CARTER FOR A PUBLIC RESPONSE TO IT. THE AUTHORS OF THE LETTER ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM PRESIDENT CARTER "PUBLICLY AS WELL AS THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS".

4. BOTH DOCUMENTS ARE DATED 9/4/78. THE STATEMENT, WHICH IS TWO SINGLE-SPACED TYPEWRITTEN PAGES IN ENGLISH, WAS DISTRIBUTED AT A PRAYER MEETING THE EVENING OF 9/8. CHRMK/KCUD REP THOUGHT THE JAPANESE ASAHI SIMBUN HAD A COPY OF IT AND MAY ALREADY HAVE PRINTED IT. EMBASSY WILL POUCH BOTH DOCUMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT.

5. CHRMK/KCUD REP STATED THAT THE VARIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS EXPECT A HIGH LEVEL OF ANTI-ROKG ACTIVITY THIS FALL AND LOOK TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE ADMINISTRATION FOR FIRM MORAL SUPPORT (THE WORD USED WAS "CHEERLEADING"). THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE KOREAN CITIZENS' UNION FOR DEMOCRACY, WHICH WAS REPORTEDLY FORMED THIS SUMMER, APPARENTLY OVERLAPS WITH THE COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN KOREA.
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